

1 What is claimed is:

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3 1. A control panel of a washing machine, comprising:

4 a frame provided on a cabinet to form an exterior;

5 a display panel on a front side of the frame to have at least one button formed
6 thereon;

7 a display substrate in rear of the display panel to have at least one switch formed
8 thereon; and

9 a lever between the corresponding button and switch to operate the switch by
10 receiving an external force applied to the button.

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12 2. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 1, the lever
13 comprising:

14 a first lever receiving the external force applied to the button to operate; and

15 a second lever coupled with the first lever to turn on/off the switch according to an
16 operation of the first lever.

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18 3. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein a
19 rotational protrusion is formed at either the first lever or the second lever and a coupling
20 recess is formed at either the second lever or the first lever so that the rotational protrusion is
21 fitted to the coupling recess.

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23 4. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein the
24 first and second levers are rotatably coupled with a backside of the display panel.

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26 5. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein
27 lever fixing parts are formed at the backside of the display panel and the first and second
28 levers are coupled with the corresponding lever fixing parts, respectively.

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30 6. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 5, wherein
31 perforated holes are formed at the lever fixing parts and the first and second levers,
32 respectively and wherein lever rotational shafts are inserted in the corresponding perforated
33 holes, respectively.

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35 7. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein an
36 elastic member is provided between the display panel and the first or second lever to return
37 the first and second levers to original state.

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39 8. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the
40 elastic member is a plate spring.

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42 9. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the
43 elastic member is zigzag-shaped.

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45 10. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein a
46 button protrusion is formed at a bottom of the button to be brought contact with the first lever
47 once the external force is applied to the button.

49 11. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein a
50 protrusion is formed at a top of the first lever to be brought contact with the first lever once
51 the external force is applied to the button.

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53 12. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein a
54 bent part is formed at a central portion of the second lever.

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56 13. The control panel of the washing machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein a
57 rib is provided at the bent part for rigidity reinforcement.